



***United States Attorney
Southern District of New York***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 23, 2005**

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**U.S. CHARGES THREE CO-CONSPIRATORS
IN MILLION-DOLLAR COUNTERFEITING RING**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, A. T. SMITH, the Special Agent in Charge of the New York Field Office of the United States Secret Service ("USSS"), and DAVID J. O'CONNOR, the Special Agent in Charge of the Newark Field Office of the USSS, announced that WILFREDO PEREZ, 45, of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, ROBERTO CINTRON, 33, of Providence, Rhode Island, and MIGUEL CUESTA, 58, of Passaic, New Jersey, were arrested Friday on federal counterfeiting charges.

According to a Complaint unsealed Friday in Manhattan federal court, PEREZ, CINTRON and CUESTA were involved in a conspiracy to print and sell more than \$1 million in counterfeit United States currency. The Complaint alleges that the conspiracy, which was in operation from at least February 2005, involved

printing counterfeit \$100 bills on bleached genuine United States currency paper, and selling those bills for genuine United States currency. According to the Complaint, the counterfeit currency was printed on a printing machine in the basement of a house in Passaic, New Jersey, and then sold in Manhattan.

The Complaint states that PEREZ and CINTRON were arrested on May 19, when they attempted to sell \$960,000 in counterfeit \$100 bills to an undercover Secret Service agent in Manhattan; CUESTA was arrested the same day, when Secret Service agents found him in the basement of the house in Passaic, New Jersey, where the printing press was operating. The Complaint alleges that in exchange for payment, CUESTA allowed PEREZ to use the basement of the house to print the counterfeit currency.

The Complaint charges PEREZ, CINTRON and CUESTA with one count of conspiring to print and sell counterfeit United States currency. The Complaint also charges PEREZ and CINTRON with one count of printing counterfeit United States currency and one count of selling counterfeit United States currency.

If convicted of the charges, PEREZ and CINTRON each face a maximum sentence of 45 years in prison, and CUESTA faces a maximum sentence of 5 years in prison.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the United States Secret Service, and said that the investigation is continuing.

Assistant United States Attorney LAUREN M. OUZIEL is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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